Whenever I had the opportunity to enter one of those houses, I always found the women working: some wove hammocks, some made flour, others smoked meat, some cooked, some prepared banana mush, etc.

They never failed to offer me something to eat: now cooked sweet potatoes, now banana mush. [104]

A cheerful and merry Indian woman, her face all painted up with urucu dye in addition to the usual designs, offered me a tremendous caterpillar which she held on her finger. It was a repulsive thing which contracted and stretched convulsively; and the woman insisted upon transferring it to my own hand, telling me that it was something to eat: "Cobi-cobi."

XIV

Symbolic characters drawn on the cliff of Cantagalo, on the banks of the Upper Tapajoz, and on the hills of Arau-cré between Acupari and Necodemos.

On the left bank of the Upper Tapajoz, in the place known as Cantagalo, fifteen figures are to be seen, drawn on the face of a cliff which is about one hundred meters high and which was carved perpendicularly by the stream.

These figures have been there for ages untold: the oldest frontiersmen who explored the Upper Tapajoz, and the oldest Mundurucu, found them just as they are but do not understand their meaning.

They are dark red, like ocher, and stand about eight meters above the highest level of the water at the time of its maximum winter swelling.

At the present time it would be impossible for a man to draw them at this height, even with the help of scaffolding, for the current is fierce where the river curves in at the base of the cliff, especially at the time of year when the water level reaches its maximum height.

1: Tocantins--28 C-5 (1875) 1877 SQ13 Mundurucu SQ13

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